Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
Since 1982
for Delmarva History and Culture
We're History...Without You!

Shoreline

Vol. 16, Issue 4, April 2009

Poetry of the Shore

April is National Poetry Month, which offers an excellent opportunity to share some verses written by Delmarva residents about their home. In 1936, W.C. Thurston of Salisbury set out to capture some of the literary heritage of the Eastern Shore in his anthology of local poetry, stories and lore titled *The Eastern Shore of Maryland In Song and Story: A Pleasant Peninsula.* As he states: "The Shore is poetically inclined—everybody writes verse." His collection certainly provides a rich look into the society and culture of bygone eras on the Shore. It is not hard to find a deep love and affection for the land and country in the poems found in Thurston's collection. In celebration of both Delmarva and National Poetry Month, here are a few selections from Thurston's anthology, which is available in the stacks of the Nabb Center's Reading Room for your perusing.

Land of the Evergreens

Here's to the land where the evergreens grow,
In the summer's sun and the winter's snow;
Here's to the land where the oyster thrives,
Where the terrapin crawls and the wild duck flies;
Where the crabs abound in the Chesapeake waters;
The pride of Maryland's sons and daughters;
Here's to the land where skies are bluest-
Home ties are strongest-hearts are truest;
Here's to the sweetest land I know;
The dear homeland- the Eastern Sho'!

Maria Louise Ellegood
Salisbury, MD

Back to the Eastern Shore

When the subtle charm of springtime
Comes stealing thru the door,
It stirs my heart to memories – happy memories
Of the dear old Eastern Shore.

I see again the whitecaps break,
And hear old ocean's roar,
Where tossing pines their vigil keep
Down on the Eastern Shore.

A small white cottage, I recall
With roses around the door;
My happy home of childhood days
On the dear old Eastern Shore.

And when I come to the long trail's end,
Do This before I go,
Carry me back to the land I love
Back to the Eastern Shore.

There let me rest beneath the soil
Whose name I proudly bore,
And lay my tired body down
To sleep on the Eastern Shore.

Jimmy Snow
Pennsylvania Military College
Chester, PA

Chesapeake Twilight

Sunset has ringed the world with mist,
The bay is touched with amethyst,
The day is almost done
For, two by two, the grey cranes go
To the harber in the marsh, below
Across the setting sun.

Each silver schooner lies at rest
Her tall spars black against the west,
Each weary sail is furled,
Above the wind, a last gull calls
While night like benediction, falls
God's blessing on His world.

Genevieve Hinman Frazer
Elkton, MD

Images from John Jacob Postcard Collection

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801-6861
410-543-6312
E-mail: rcdhac@salisbury.edu

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

non-profit org.
U. S. postage
PAID
Salisbury, Maryland
permit no. 65

"We're History...Without You"

Upcoming Events:

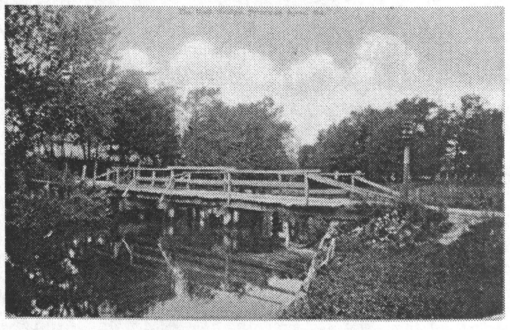
Celebrating Archaeology Month
Saturday, April 18
Nabb Center Burton Reading Room, 2 p.m.
Dr. Elizabeth Ragan, SU associate professor of history, lectures on "Over the Sea to Somerset: 17th Century Trade in a Neglected Corner of the Chesapeake."

Fundraiser at Ross Mansion in Seaford
Saturday, May 2
The fully restored mansion in Seaford, Delaware, of Governor William Henry Harrison Ross—a highly popular Governor from 1851-1855—is the site for the Nabb Research Center's annual fundraising event. Guests visit a simpler bygone time period and explore an Italianate mansion with slave quarters, barns, sheds and spacious grounds. Tickets will be available in early spring.

"The Other Side of the Battle"
Saturday, April 18
Rehoboth Beach Public Library, 10:30 a.m.
The Sussex County Genealogical Society invites all to attend Dr. Fred Seyfurt's lecture, "The Other Side of the Battle," which sheds light on the home front of the Civil War. Anyone interested in the Civil War as well as genealogy is welcome and encouraged to attend. Admittance is free.

Washburn Lecture a Great Success!

Dr. Melanie Perreault explored the darker side of early Chesapeake society on the evening of March 25 in her lecture "Servants, Slaves and Unruly Mistresses: Interpersonal Violence in the Early Chesapeake." Perreault spoke to a full-capacity audience in the Wicomico Room of the Guerrieri University Center. Her lecture was the latest in the Wilcomb Washburn Distinguished Lecture in American History Series, which brings a prominent historian to Salisbury University each year to share their research in American history. This year's lecturer did not have to travel far as Perreault is the current chair of Salisbury University's History Department. Perreault earned her doctorate from the College of William and Mary where she studied first contact issues between Europeans and indigenous cultures during colonial expansion. She also co-authored the text *Colonial Chesapeake: New Perspectives* and has several articles published in historical journals. The Nabb Center staff thank Dr. Perreault for sharing her time and research with us and also Iris Powell for all her hard work in organizing the event.



Images from John Jacob Postcard Collection